Education (AICTE) is exploring possibilities for Stablishing a network through National Information Centre (NIC) in order to inter connect around 450 institutions in the country which are imparting education in engineering/technology, including institutions of national importance like IITs, IISc., Bangalore, Technical Universities, Government and Private Colleges, the details have not yet been finalised.

All India Council of Physical Education and Sports Sciences

3305. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the present status of the long pending act of 1944 to create an All India Council of Physical Education and Sports Sciences (AICPESS) in order to monitor uniformly updated sports science and physical education in the country;

(b) whether this Act, is being put on the agenda of the current Session of Parliament;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the manner in which we are planning to make sports as an integral part of our general education at school and that of higher education colleges and Physical Education teachers to schools in the desired student teacher ratio nor is there any provision of required number of periods in the time table?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DHANUSHKODI ATHITHAN R.) : (a) to (c). A draft bill for the All India Council for Physical Education has been circulated to all concerned Ministries/Departments, State Governments/Union Territories administrations and all other agencies for comments. The views and opinions called for have been received excepting from some State Governments/Union Territories administrations. It is proposed to introduce the Bill before Parliament only after obtaining comments from the remaining State Governments/UT Administrations.

(d) The K.P. Singh Deo Committee on Physical Education and Sports constituted by the Govt. of India has recommended the integration of Physical Education and Sports with educational curriculum in schools as a part of the learning process. The Govt. of India has accepted the recommendations of the Committee and requested the State Governments to implement these recommendations. The Committee has also recommended assigning 40 minutes a day to Physical Education and Sports in Schools and imparting Physical Education training to teachers through pre service and in-service courses.

[Translation]

Ring Road in Agra, U.P.

3306. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to construct Ring Road in Agra to save Taj from vehicular pollution;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. The proposals are at conceptual stage.

Medicinal Shrubs

3307. SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether medicinal shrubs are not available all over India due to the cutting of forests on large scale;

(b) the efforts made by the Ministry to get the shrubs; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) and (b). Some medicinal shrubs are not available in required quantity due to defforestation and extensive exploitation. The Government have initiated various schemes for conservation and propagation of such medicinal plants.

(c) Does not arise.

Pace Makers

3308. SHRI LALIT ORAON : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of hospitals in the country where the facility of fixing of 'Pace Makers' on the body of heart patients is available;

(b) the number of patients, who are in need of 'Pace Makers' annually in the country alongwith the details of number of patients who can avail of the said facilities each year;

(c) the estimated cost of single 'Pace Maker';

(d) whether it cost too much and is not available easily, because it is not being manufactured in the country; and

(e) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto and steps being taken for manufacturing of the 'Pace Maker' in the country itself?